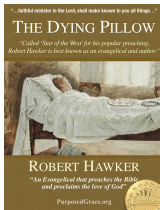


SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

February 24th, 2019

“...a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things”

(EPHESIANS 6:21)



On our bookshelf... **Robert Hawker**

The Dying Pillow

AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT
bookshelf.sovereigngrace.us

JOSEPH D MURPHY, PASTOR

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**Sunday mornings beginning at 10 am,
and Wednesday evenings at 7 pm**

[There will be no Spanish service this Sunday evening at 6 pm]

Nursery

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

This evening's podcast will be from our PASTOR

JOHN 11 — CHRIST OUR SUBSTITUTE

Recorded on Sunday morning, December 24th, 2017

To find our podcast search for the keyword **PurposedGrace** on



Apple's **Podcast App** or



Google's **Play Music App**

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH CONFERENCE

FEB 22ND @ 7:30 PM | FEB 23RD @ 8 AM (MEN'S BREAKFAST), 6 PM | FEB 24TH @ 10 AM

PASTOR CLAY CURTIS, & PASTOR TODD NIBERT

BIOGRAPHY OF A SERVANT

"...TYCHICUS, A BELOVED BROTHER AND FAITHFUL MINISTER IN THE LORD, SHALL MAKE KNOWN TO YOU ALL THINGS: WHOM I HAVE SENT UNTO YOU FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, THAT YE MIGHT KNOW OUR AFFAIRS, AND THAT HE MIGHT COMFORT YOUR HEARTS" (EPHESIANS 6:21-22)

Many honorable men in the Bible have short biographies. But those short biographies are very instructive. Tychicus is such a man. All that we are told is that he was a "beloved brother and a faithful minister in the Lord." What a biography!

Tychicus was *"a beloved brother"* (EPHESIANS 6:21). What does it mean to be a "brother" or "sister" in Christ? It is a rare title only reserved for those saved by the same grace of God as us. When we call someone brother we are saying he is chosen freely of God the Father in Christ, justified freely with God's elect by the blood of Christ, called from death to life by the Holy Spirit so that he is of the same *"household of God"* (EPHESIANS 2:19). We are saying that he is one with us (EPHESIANS 4:4-6). This title only belongs to those who give God in Christ all the glory in salvation! Notice, Tychicus was not only a brother but a *"beloved"* brother. Beloved of God from eternity in Christ? That is obvious since he was called of God. But also he was beloved of the saints who knew him, especially Paul. He was a loving, loveable brother. Those born from above are so because *"the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated,*

full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy” (JAMES 3:17). This is the most honorable quality we can have. Christ said, *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another”* (JOHN 13:35).

The second characteristic in Tychicus’ biography is that he was a *“faithful minister in the Lord.”* Faithfulness is what God requires of his minister (1 CORINTHIANS 4:2). It is not a product of our flesh. God is faithful, Christ is faithful, so when God puts his Spirit in us, the gift imparted is faith and faithfulness (EPHESIANS 2:8-10; GALATIANS 5: 22). This is why Paul addresses his letters to the churches as *“to the faithful in Christ Jesus”* (EPHESIANS 1:1; COLOSSIANS 1:2). Tychicus was faithful because Christ qualified him, appointed him and sent him. (1 TIMOTHY 1:12-14) He was faithful to Christ his Lord preaching only Christ crucified according to God’s word. A faithful minister in Christ is faithful to the souls to whom he ministers. He was willing to forfeit his comforts for the glory of Christ and the good of his people. Tychicus knew those to whom he ministered had an eternity to spend: either saved by God’s grace or condemned by their own rebellion. He wanted to see them saved by grace.

We are not all called to be preachers. But we are all called to be faithful, beloved brethren, who minister to one another. May God make it our aim to leave a biography like Tychicus—*“a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord.”* If we accomplish nothing else in life but this then we will have made the very best use of the time that God gave us. [AMEN!]

PASTOR CLAY CURTIS

IF MY WIFE ASKED ME IF I LOVED HER...

“I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE; AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH, NEITHER SHALL ANY MAN PLUCK THEM OUT OF MY HAND” (JOHN 10:28)

If my wife asked me if I loved her, and I replied that I did in a sense, it would not be received well. I hear preachers speak of God loving all men in a sense, and sincerely offering mercy and forgiveness to all men—that is quite simply not true! The apostles never told an unbelieving crowd that God loved them and offered them forgiveness. The unbeliever needs to know that he has offended a holy God by his sin and has become

God’s enemy by his hatred of God. But there is salvation in Christ! God has made a way to be just and yet justify the ungodly. If you trust Christ alone as your only grounds of acceptance, you will be saved. To say there is a sense in which God loves is degrading to the character of the love of God. To say He offers forgiveness puts my forgiveness dependent on my acceptance or rejection of the offer. That is salvation by works! [AMEN!]

PASTOR TODD NIBERT

LET HIM SPEAK MY WORD FAITHFULLY

“THE PROPHET THAT HATH A DREAM, LET HIM TELL A DREAM; AND HE THAT HATH MY WORD, LET HIM SPEAK MY WORD FAITHFULLY. WHAT IS THE CHAFF TO THE WHEAT? SAITH THE LORD” (JEREMIAH 23:28)

This is the responsibility of God's preacher. He is to speak God's word faithfully. If someone in the congregation is walking contrary to the word of God then the word spoken will most likely be personal and offensive to them and their family initially. Is the Lord's preacher supposed to water down the word so as not to offend? Is God's preacher to ignore the word God has laid on his heart? Should he preach another passage so as not to offend? No, the person walking contrary to the word is in need of rebuke by God's word. That person needs to turn and walk according to God's word. If those closest to him love him then they will tell him the same thing. But God's preacher must speak God's word faithfully. We are not to alter which passage we preach, nor hold back the truth of the passage, no matter who it offends.

This is another one of the things that makes it difficult being God's messenger. If we speak only the passages of God's word that we are sure will not condemn or offend anyone then there will be no passages we can preach. At all times God is sending his word to rebuke some, while the same message is sent to comfort others. Therefore, every word preached will rebuke someone every time. But if we are faithful to God, as well as to the souls of those God has entrusted to our care, then we will obey God even if it means we receive an unfavorable response. God says to those who hear the word, *“Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured”* (PROVERBS 13:18). And God says to those who speak his word, *“He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favor than he that flattereth with the tongue”* (PROVERBS 28:23). Therefore, God's faithful preacher obeys God who says, *“he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully.”* Likewise, those who hear God's word will be better off if they hear it faithfully!

PASTOR CLAY CURTIS

A MATTER OF REVELATION

No matter how simply and clearly the gospel of Christ is presented, no matter how intelligent the person is that is listening, the gospel cannot be understood or received apart from a revelation from God Almighty to the sinner's heart [MATTHEW 16:17]. This is a humbling truth. No amount of seeking or study will enable one to believe. God must reveal Himself.

But it is also a very encouraging truth. Although our ability to preach and witness will not make a sinner more likely to believe and the sinner's ability to listen, and comprehend what he has heard will not make him more likely to believe, yet God can and does make Himself known in an instant; and that sinner to whom God makes Himself known will believe! Not only will he believe when God makes Himself known, he can't help but believe!

PASTOR TODD NIBERT